

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
**Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 29, 2004

Reply to Attn of: GG

TO: Distribution

FROM: G/General Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the Lincoln Avenue Water  
Company (LAWC) Reception, July 29, 2004

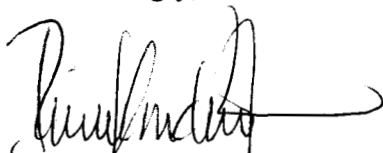
The LAWC is hosting a reception to inaugurate its perchlorate treatment system for its residential water customers. The event will be held at the LAWC's treatment system at 2700 N. Olive Avenue, on July 29, 2004. It is believed to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

U.S. Filter Corporation, the water treatment technology company that manufactured and installed the perchlorate treatment system for LAWC, is funding the reception. Approximately 125 people are expected to attend the event. Light refreshments will be served at this event and the approximate cost is less than twenty dollars per person.

NASA provides the funding for the perchlorate treatment system through an agreement between LAWC and the California Institute of Technology, the operating contractor for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Once in operation, the perchlorate treatment system will be an integral element of NASA's environmental restoration strategy for mitigating an underground chemical plume associated with past operations at the JPL. The NASA Deputy Administrator is an invited speaker at the event, and other employees will be involved in presentations and discussions with attendees at the event. Attendance at the event by NASA personnel is consistent with the Community Involvement Plan prepared by NASA in partial fulfillment of its legal obligations under the Comprehensive Environment Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

I find the event meets the requirements of a widely attended gathering as defined in 5 CFR 2635.204(g). Because of NASA's obligations under CERCLA and its commitment as a responsible community member, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs the concern that acceptance of the gift (refreshments) may or may appear to improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend this event without charge.

  
xN Paul G. Pastorek